ſolves theſe Appearances, of which he had profeſſedly wrote. Take it in his own Words.——

" *Ariſtoteles* (l. i. m. m. cx.) docebat —— quod " omnis natura ejus ſit eſſentiæ procreatrix, qualis " ipſa eſt —— enimvero ſunt ad conſervationem ſpe- " cici omnis, ejuſdem ſingulæ particulæ, vim ſe dif- " fundendi obtinuerunt, et ſpargendi, per individua " multiplicata, ita ne lux primæva et naturalis, ſin- " gulari numinis conſilio, elementorum mixtioni " addita, mole minor intercidat, et extinguatur cum " ſpeciei non revocando caſu, eo modo conſervari " debuit, quo ſerventur omnia, per inſitam naturæ " potentiam ſui generativam, *&c.*"

IV. *A Letter from the Reverend Mr.* John Forſter *to Mr.* Henry Baker *F. R. S. concerning an* Earthquake *at* Taunton.

SIR,

Read June 15. 1748. IN Anſwer to your Inquiries concerning the Earthquake, which happen'd laſt Year on the firſt Day of *July*, when I was at *Taunton* in *Somerſetſhire*, after taking ſome Pains to inform myſelf more particularly what other People obſerved in different Places, you may depend on the Truth of what follows.

Between Ten and Eleven o' Clock at Night, on the ſaid firſt Day of *July* 1747. being myſelf in ſome Company at *Taunton*, we were ſuddenly ſurpriſed with a rumbling Noiſe like diſtant Thunder, which was followed immediately by ſo conſiderable a Motion

Motion of the Earth, that the Chair whereon I ſat rocked under me. The Noiſe and Shaking ſeemed to come from a Diſtance, and approached gradually, in ſuch a manner as if a loaded Waggon had paſſed along; and continued nearly the ſame Time as ſuch a Waggon would require to go about an hundred Yards. The Motion went from South-Eaſt to North-Weſt; which being the Direction of the Street, on one Side whereof the Houſe ſtood, ſome of us imagined at firſt that a Waggon had really gone along*; but, upon running out and enquiring, we found there had been no Waggon: And indeed, as we were ſatisfied afterwards, no Waggon could have been heard or felt in the back Room where we ſat, on account of its too great Diſtance from the Street.

Notwithſtanding this happened between Ten and Eleven o' Clock at Night, when moſt of the Town were in Bed, the Shock was ſo ſenſible, that many People got up very much terrified; and they waking others, the Conſternation ſoon became general; inſomuch that, altho' it was a rainy Night, Numbers of People ran out into their Gardens, and ſpent the Night there, being apprehenſive of other Shocks. The Account then newly brought us of a dreadful Earthquake at *Lima*, being freſh in every body's Mind, contributed to increaſe the Surprize.

A worthy Clergyman, who lives five Miles from *Taunton*, informed me, that the China and Glaſſes upon the Cupboards in his Houſe rattled and ſhook as if they would fall down, and the Bells in his Houſe

* See ſomething like this in *Phil. Tranſ. n.* 455, *p.* 289.

Houſe rang. A Perſon who was at that time coming on foot to *Taunton* likewiſe told me, that the Noiſe ſeemed to him like the Diſcharge of Cannon at a Diſtance, and came rumbling onwards, till the Earth moved under him in ſuch a manner that he could hardly keep upon his Legs: Several others alſo that were abroad aſſured me they had much ado to ſave themſelves from falling.

The Extent of this Earthquake, as far as I can learn, was from Sea to Sea; that is, from the *South Chanel* to the *Severn*. It moved from South-Eaſt to North-Weſt, and was felt in every Pariſh through this whole Courſe, which is in Length about forty Miles: Nor was its Breadth much leſs; for it was felt at the ſame time both at *Exeter* and *Crookhorn*, which lie from one another about the ſame Diſtance of forty Miles, in a Line directly acroſs its before-mention'd Courſe.

This, Sir, is the beſt Account I am able to give; and I ſhall add nothing more, but that I am

York-Buildings; *June* 28. 1748. *Your moſt humble Servant*,

John Forſter.

P. S. I have heard it reported that there were Flaſhes of Lightning at the time of the Earthquake; but I neither ſaw any myſelf, nor have met with any body that could affirm he did.